

# Resolution



ORDER NO. 2024-0312

DATE: April 2nd, 2024

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS§

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 2nd day of April, 2024 on motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner of District 1, and seconded by John Wiley Price, Commissioner of District 3, the following Resolution was adopted:

**WHEREAS**, Over 80% of pregnancy deaths are preventable, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Black women in the United States are 3 times more likely than white women to die from pregnancy-related causes. The Family Wellness Council seeks to establish collaborative partnerships across North Texas, engaging multiple sectors, focusing on health equity, improvement in maternal and infant health for Black caregivers and provide high quality support to both families and providers; and

**WHEREAS**, Black women also are nearly twice as likely compared to white women to have a birth with late or no prenatal care compared to white women. Black women also suffer from life threatening complications known as maternal morbidities at a rate of twice that of white women. The high rates of maternal mortality among Black women span across income levels, education levels, socioeconomic status, access to prenatal care, general overall health, and mental health and substance use disorder status; and

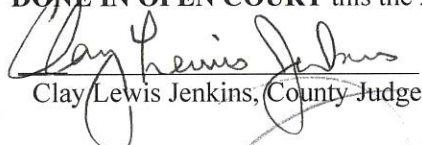
**WHEREAS**, Black Maternal Health Week is an opportunity to acknowledge the tragic deaths of Black women in our state and across the country who lost their lives to pregnancy related complications and to raise awareness of the state's preventable and unacceptable disparities in Black maternal health outcomes; Black Maternal Health Week is also a time to stand in solidarity, recognizing that this issue impacts Black mothers, Indigenous mothers, and other mothers of color, as well as trans people, gender expansive people, families, communities, and practitioners, who all experience the weight of systemic bias. It is our job to uplift community-based responses to addressing this crisis and to promote initiatives to reduce Black maternal morbidity and mortality; and

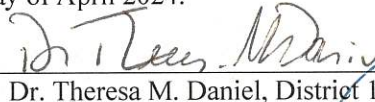
**WHEREAS**, Dallas County recognizes that structural racism, gender oppression, and inequities in the social determinants of health are embedded in many institutions and contribute to unacceptable and preventable disparities in Black maternal health outcomes. We affirm the need to improve our maternal care systems and invest in improving Black maternal health outcomes, as well as the need to acknowledge the historical and systemic exploitation of Black bodies within the medical field and to encourage practitioners to listen to and believe Black birthing persons seeking medical care; and

**WHEREAS**, This week, as we continue our work to make pregnancy and childbirth safe, dignified, and joyful for all, let us remember that health care should be a right and not a privilege. Let us give thanks to the extraordinary maternal health care workforce, which serves its patients and their families every day. And let us join in common cause to end the tragedy of maternal mortality once and for all. The Health Initiatives Workgroup seeks to reduce health disparities in our community through agency partnerships and culturally informed practices; and

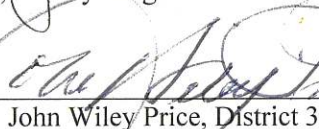
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Dallas County Commissioners Court do hereby proclaim **April 11-17, 2024, Black Maternal Health Week** and together with the **Family Wellness Council Health Initiatives Workgroup**, call upon all citizens, legislators, other elected officials, community agencies, religious organizations, medical facilities, schools, and businesses to increase their participation in efforts to improve maternal and child outcomes. We also would like all to advocate for the advancement of health equity through collaborative investments, thereby strengthening and improving the long-term outcomes necessary for families to thrive.

**DONE IN OPEN COURT** this the 2nd day of April 2024.

  
Clay Lewis Jenkins, County Judge

  
Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, District 1

  
Andrew Sommerman, District 2

  
John Wiley Price, District 3

  
Dr. Elba Garcia, District 4